

From: Patti Wilson <lifefreepah@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:02 PM
To: HSTestimony
Cc: Patti Wilson
Subject: Raised HB #6941: An Act Concerning State Agency Interpreters

Good afternoon Chairpersons Senator Moore and Representative Abercrombie, Vice-Chairs Senator Slossberg and Representative McGee and members of the Human Services. This is Patricia Wilson, Executive Board At Large , Connecticut Association of the Deaf. I volunteer as ASL Community Advocate for many years.

I am here to speak with you about Raised House Bill #6941: An Act Concerning State Agency Interpreters. State agencies: DCF, Courts, DDS, DSS will call DORS' Interpreter Services Unit firstly to find interpreters. If DORS does not have interpreters available the state agency can then call FSW or any other interpreters. I would like to ask you to support for Raised HB #6765: An Act Concerning Interpreter Qualifications , and DORS Budget and the proposed establishment of a Monitoring Board and fund one professional staff position. I want to share the example of a situation. When we, three Administrative Volunteers for Communication Advocacy Network (CAN) of Hartford, CT, attended one day workshop by the UNITED WAY. We did not recognize two interpreters when we introduced each other. There was a Keynote Speaker who worked for I.R.S. from Washington, D. C. and a group panel discussion. We realized how embarrassed and frustrated we were because these interpreters did not understand our usage of American Sign Language (ASL). They missed a great deal of what we wanted to ask questions or to make comments, especially when we participated during the panel discussion. After the workshop, one hearing person who worked for the state agency came to us to let us know that she understood our frustration. There was no established way we could report to our concern or complaints as there is no mechanism such Monitoring Board.

Thank You for your considerations for Raised House Bills #6941 and #6765 and proposed funding the Monitoring Board.